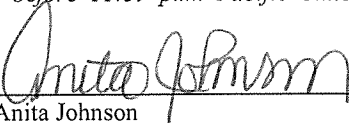


PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 14, 2010 at or before 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time under the Rules of 37 CFR § 1.8.*

  
Anita Johnson

Appl No. : 10/618,033 Confirmation No. 4112  
Applicant : Yaron Keidar, et al.  
Filed : July 11, 2003  
Title : TRANS-SEPTAL SHEATH WITH SPLITTING DILATING NEEDLE  
AND METHOD FOR ITS USE  
  
TC/A.U. : 3734  
Examiner : Erin L. Colello  
  
Docket No. : 50572/W112  
Customer No. : 23363

**AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
January 14, 2010

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action of July 14, 2009, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.